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Medicare's Challenge

Excess spending growth per beneficiary (percentage points)	Medicare share of GDP in 2035 (%)
2	7.9
1	6.4
0.5	5.7
0	5.1

Share in 2013 projected to be 3.7 percent. To remain at 3.7 percent of GDP in 2035, Medicare needs to grow at a rate of 1.5 percentage points below GDP. Faster GDP growth would imply slightly lower Medicare shares for any amount of excess spending growth.

SOURCE Congressional Budget Office; see note 15 in text. Congressional Budget Office. Long-term budget outlook 2012. Washington (DC): CBO; 2012.





Two Questions What caused the spending slowdown Will the slowdown persist

Its harder to look forward than backwards



Why Slowdown Was Not Simply Due to the Recession?

- Started before the recession (Cutler 2012)
- Affected populations not as strongly impacted by the recession (Ryu et al.)
 - Privately insured (HOLDING BENEFIT GENEROSITY CONSTANT)
 - Medicare
- Observed change in technology introduction (Cutler 2012)

Cutler, David M., and Nikhil R. Sahni. Health Affairs 32.5 (2013): 841-850.

Slowdown may not continue

- Could reflect things we have done or idiosyncratic factors
 - Patent expirations
- Not inevitable natural phenomenon. Future policy matters
 - ACA?
 - SGR?



Payment Reform

Pay less

- Reductions in payment to providers
- Reductions in payment to plans
- Increased rates must be scored by CBO
- Move away from FFS
 - Episode bundles
 - Global payment/ budgets

Wide Range of Public Strategies

- Medicare (A bit of everything)
 - ACOs
 - Shared savings and pioneers
 - Episode bundles

States

- ACO like (Oregon)
- Bundles (Arkansas)
- Hospital Budgets (Maryland)

Private Innovations

- Global payment models
 - Alternative Quality Contract
- Insurer/ provider partnerships – Aetna
- Medical home based models
 - Carefirst

Basic Features

Payment that spans providers

- Global or episodes
- Typically built on FFS foundation
- Risk adjustment

Pay for performance

Technical support



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